Hisakazu TANAKA et al. Docket No. 020307

REMARKS

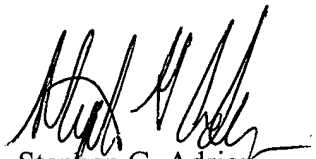
The above amendment is believed to correct typographical errors in the specification. Early and favorable action is awaited.

Attached hereto is a marked-up version of the changes made to the specification by the current amendment. The attached page is captioned "Version with markings to show changes made."

In the event there are any additional fees required, please charge our Deposit Account No. 01-2340.

Respectfully submitted,

ARMSTRONG, WESTERMAN & HATTORI, LLP



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VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

The paragraph beginning at page 2, line 13, has been amended as follows:

Furthermore, in order to solve the problems described above, water absorbent materials comprising a copolymer of either a sulfoalkyl (meth)acrylate or an acrylamide (Japanese Unexamined Patent Application, First Publication, No. Hei [10-871714] 10-81714) or a copolymer of a nonionic monomer and acrylic acid (Japanese Unexamined Patent Application, First Publication, No. Hei 9-143210) have also been proposed. However, although these water absorbent materials offer an improved water absorption of water which contains salts, the water absorption for pure water or water with only small amounts of ions actually decreases, and the initial water absorption speed is also slow.

The paragraph beginning at page 14, line 25, has been amended as follows:

The method of adding the polymerizable anhydropolyamino acid (A) is not specifically limited, but includes, for example, (1) a method of previously mixing an aqueous solution of a previously hydrolyzed polymerizable anhydropolyamino acid (A) with an aqueous solution of a sulfonic acid group-containing polymerizable monomer, [(B)] (2) a method of simultaneously pouring an aqueous solution of a sulfonic acid group-containing polymerizable monomer [(B)], (3)

a method of pouring during temperature rise, or (4) a method of pouring after the polymerization was initiated by heat generation. Among these methods, the method (4) is preferred because it can maintain the stability of the system more satisfactorily.

The Table 5 at page 37 has been amended as follows:

Table 5

Components to be charged (g)		Example 6	Example 7	Example 8	Comp. Example 3	Comp. Example 4
(3) First step	Polysuccinimide (2)	3	3	3	-	-
	GMA	0.3	0.3	0.3		-
	NaOH	1.2	1.2	1.2	-	-
	Ion exchange water	3.2	3.2	3.2	-	-
	Sucrose ester F-160 (HLB=16)	0.75	0.75	0.75	-	-
	Cyclohexane	20	20	20	-	20
(3) Second step	Sucrose ester F-90 (HLB=9)	0.75	0.75	0.75	-	-
	Cyclohexane	164	164	164	-	-
	Na sulfomethyl methacrylate	18.4	-	-	18.4	-
	AMPS	-	16.5	16.5	16.5	-
	Acrylamide	18.4	18.4	18.4	18.4	18.4
	NaOH	-	1.9	1.9	-	8.3
	Ion exchange water	80.9	76.5	76.5	80.9	76.5
	MBAA	~~0.00039~~ 0.0039	~~0.00039~~ 0.0039	~~0.00039~~ 0.0039	~~0.00039~~ 0.0039	~~0.00039~~ 0.0039
	APS	0.05	0.05	0.05	0.05	0.05
(3) Third step	GMA	-	-	0.09	-	-
	APS	-	-	0.09	-	-
	Ion exchange water	-	-	2.1	-	-